United Nations A/63/611

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 119

Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th and 23rd. meetings, on 15 October and 15 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.7 and 23).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-eighth session (A/63/16);

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: part one: plan outline (A/63/6 (Part one)) and part two: biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog.1-16, 17 and Corr.1, 18-22, 23 and Corr.1 and 24-27));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/63/70).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 15 October 2008, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of the Committee (see A/C.5/63/SR.7).

08-65406 (E) 171208

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.4

5. At its 23rd meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/63/L.4), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.4 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006 and 62/224 of 22 December 2007,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-eighth session,[1] the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: part one: plan outline[2] and part two: biennial programme plan,[3] and the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007,[4]

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007, contained in chapter II, section A, of its report on the work of its forty-eighth session,[1] and on the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011, contained in chapter II, section B;

2. *Decides* that the priorities for the period 2010-2011 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/63/16).

[2] A/63/6 (Part one).

[3] A/63/6 (Prog 1-16, 17 and Corr.1, 18-22, 23 and Corr.1 and 24-27).

[4] A/63/70.

3. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

4. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 on the basis of the above priorities and the biennial programme plan as adopted in the present resolution;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on evaluation, contained in chapter II, section C, of its report; on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, contained in chapter III, section A; on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, contained in chapter III, section B; and on improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate, contained in chapter IV;

7. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in monitoring and evaluation, and recalls paragraph 11 of its resolution 62/224;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to improve the log frame, and in this regard encourages programme managers to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to enable better evaluation of results, bearing in mind the importance of defining the indicators in a way that ensures their clear measurability;

9. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination, recalls regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[5] and emphasizes that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should enhance its coordination role in order to increase planning efficiency and effectiveness so as to continue to ensure the timeliness of the implementation of, and prevent duplication and redundancy in, the actions of the Organization;

10. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate, as well as the Committee's decision to remain seized of the matter.

---

[5] ST/SGB/2008/8.

United Nations A/63/612

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 127

Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 15th and 23rd meetings, on 6 November and 15 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.15 and 23).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the statistical report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system (A/63/185).

II. Consideration of draft decision A/C.5/63/L.3

4. At its 23rd meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chairman entitled "Budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system" (A/C.5/63/L.3).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/63/L.3 without a vote (see para. 6).

08-65400 (E) 171208

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the statistical report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system.[1]

[1] A/63/185.

United Nations A/63/613

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 64 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 16 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the delegations listed in the annex to the present letter, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 64 (b), "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The Declaration remains open for signature by the delegations concerned.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

08-65668 (E) 171208

Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine

The delegations of Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Saint Lucia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America do solemnly declare,

Guided by the principles, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in other relevant international instruments in the field of human rights which guarantee the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which, in particular, proclaimed that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food,

Being aware that the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine took millions of innocent lives,

Being convinced that the tragedy of the Holodomor should be a reminder for present and future generations to unconditionally respect human rights, foremost the right to life in order to prevent the repetition of such tragedies,

Recalling in this regard the joint statement on the seventieth anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine of 7 November 2003 (A/C.3/58/9 and Add.1), recognizing the Holodomor as the national tragedy of the Ukrainian people, caused by the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime,

Recalling the resolution on remembrance of victims of the Great Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine 1932-1933, adopted on 1 November 2007 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Recognizing the importance of raising public awareness on the tragic events in the history of mankind for their prevention in future,

1. Commemorate the memory of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, a man-made famine that took the lives of millions of Ukrainians, including persons of other nationalities living in Ukraine at that time;

2. Pay tribute to the memory of millions of Russians, Kazakhs and persons of other nationalities who died of starvation in the Volga region, Northern Caucasus, Kazakhstan and in other parts of the former Soviet Union;

3. Welcome efforts of Governments to open their archives on the events of 1932-1933 to reveal the full truth of this tragedy, and to raise public awareness both at national and international levels so that the causes and consequences are comprehended;

4. Emphasize that the memories of past horrors and atrocities should reinforce the efforts of the international community to ensure unconditional observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world;

5. Urge Member States to promote awareness about the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as a tragic page in global history.

United Nations A/63/614

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 64 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/63/12).

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General: (a) to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including democracy and human rights groups and all relevant parties, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard; (b) to give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully and effectively and in a coordinated manner; and (c) to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as well as to the Human Rights Council on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the statement, and paragraphs 8 to 11 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates that the cost of continuing the good-offices efforts through his Special Adviser on Myanmar for a one-year period (1 January to 31 December 2009) would amount to $837,700 gross ($753,200 net). A summary of

08-65514 (E) 171208

the related costs is provided in the Secretary-General's proposed budget for special political missions (A/63/346/Add.1 and Corr.1, paras. 2-17), in line with the Advisory Committee's request to consolidate the overall resources for all special political missions.

4. The request contained in the last part of operative paragraph 6 (a) of the draft resolution concerning the provision of technical assistance to the Government would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Regarding the request in paragraph 6 (b), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the Committee notes that the Secretary-General informed the Human Rights Council that the related requirements (estimated at $72,200 per annum or $144,400 per biennium) would be provided under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and that he would inform the General Assembly of those requirements in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its seventh and eighth sessions, in 2008 (see A/63/541 and Add.1). No additional resources are requested for section 23 at this time.

5. **Bearing in mind that which is stated in paragraph 12 of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/12), the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, a total of up to $837,700 gross ($753,200 net) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Those requirements would be charged against the provision proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as submitted to the General Assembly during its current session (see A/63/346/Add.1 and Corr.1 and the related report of the Advisory Committee, A/63/593).**

United Nations A/63/615

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 31
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its 2008 report, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained therein. The present report outlines progress made in implementing those recommendations dividing the challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping today into three areas: (a) to deliver adequate resources and guidance to the 18 current operations — including Darfur and Chad/Central African Republic still under deployment; (b) to finalize the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support as approved by the General Assembly; and (c) to continue the broad reforms and strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping, as set out in the Peace Operations 2010 plan.

08-66106 (E) 120109

I. Introduction

1. In the year since my last report to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/62/627 and Add.1), the surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping has continued unabated. Today the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, with the support of the Department of Field Support, manages 18 operations deployed across five continents. These operations comprise 140,000 authorized personnel, of which 110,000 are currently deployed, including 78,000 military, 12,000 police and 23,500 civilians and a total budget of 7.2 billion United States dollars ($). Eleven of these operations have been either deployed or strengthened in the past five years. Two operations have been deployed during 2008, to Darfur and Chad/Central African Republic, and these deployments are still ongoing. During the reporting period, the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) operation ended, and the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) transitioned to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), which is managed by the Department of Political Affairs. Other missions are on a downsizing trend, such as the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Looking forward, it is clear that the first quarter of 2009 will see the overall trend of heightened activity continue, with the handover of the European Union Force (EUFOR) operation to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), the deployment of reinforcements for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and the ongoing deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the search for an appropriate response to the complex challenges in Somalia.

2. This scale of deployment is matched by the equally significant scope and complexity of modern peacekeeping mandates. United Nations peacekeepers are engaged in a huge range of tasks, including, inter alia, supporting political dialogue between parties, assisting national Governments to extend State authority and the rule of law, advising and supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and ensuring the protection of civilians. United Nations peacekeeping missions work with the United Nations system and other partners on the ground to deliver integrated reconstruction and early recovery assistance and support donor coordination. Some missions support local efforts to reform the armed forces and police. Many are charged with helping to strengthen national capacities to promote and protect human rights. All work to mainstream gender-sensitive policies into their mandate implementation.

3. A number of Department of Peacekeeping Operations-led missions faced stern tests in 2008, including UNAMID in Darfur, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and MONUC in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where conflict continued on the ground and progress on the security, political and reconstruction fronts remained fragile. Still other missions continue to face security and heavy peacebuilding challenges, such as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) where recent advances were set back by the devastating impact of successive hurricanes and the global financial and food crises, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in the Abyei area, where a major escalation between the two signatories of the comprehensive peace agreement resulted in the destruction of Abyei town and the displacement of the area's entire

population of about 50,000, and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), which continued to provide executive policing support while supporting the national Government's peacebuilding efforts. In other countries, peacekeeping missions continued to support progress in peace processes and emergence from conflicts. In Chad, for example, MINURCAT assisted the Government to establish a new national police unit to maintain law and order in refugee and internally displaced person sites. In Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) assisted the Lebanese Armed Forces to extend State authority and security throughout the south. The presence of peacekeeping operations continued to contribute to building confidence among the parties on the ground. In Kosovo, UNMIK is going through a reconfiguration process which was driven by the changing political circumstances on the ground, and is being accompanied by the assumption of an operational role by the European Union in the rule of law sector, under the overall authority of the United Nations. Throughout these adaptations, UNMIK has maintained its neutrality vis-à-vis Kosovo's status, helping to ensure peace and stability on the ground. Traditional peacekeeping operations continue to play a valuable role, their presence helping to maintain confidence among the parties on the ground.

4. Against this large-scale and broad scope of activity and challenging operational environment, United Nations peacekeeping has faced difficulties in finding the resources necessary to fulfil its mandates. Helicopters critical to operational effectiveness of UNAMID have not been found. Troops for new deployments are increasingly difficult to generate, in particular with regard to niche and enabling capabilities and force multipliers. Furthermore, the mobilization of highly skilled yet geographically diverse and gender-balanced civilian workforces continues to be a challenge.

5. While continuing to deliver support to their 18 operations on the ground, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support have also worked through 2008 to strengthen the instrument of United Nations peacekeeping. Completing the restructuring of the two Departments, authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/279, in the midst of a very high operational tempo was a major priority for 2008, and substantial progress was made to that end. The present report outlines that progress in section II. In section III, it also provides information on progress made in strengthening and reforming the areas of peacekeeping under the Peace Operations 2010 agenda in the areas of personnel, doctrine, partnerships, resources and organization.

II. Status of implementation of the restructuring of peacekeeping

6. Since the approval of the reform proposals by the General Assembly in July 2007 (resolution 61/279), the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the establishment of the Department of Field Support have remained central to the United Nations peacekeeping agenda. These restructuring measures are nearing completion. They include structural change to respond to the magnitude and complexity of field operations; the creation of new capacities to meet the increased operational demands; the redistribution of functions across departments and rationalization of roles and responsibilities; and significant strengthening of capacities at the leadership, senior management, and working levels in order to meet the surge in demand for peacekeeping.

7. Structural changes have been fully implemented, including: the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations into two departments, with the creation of the Department of Field Support; the creation of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, which integrated police, judicial, corrections, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, mine action and security sector reform structures; the reconfiguration of the Africa Division in the Office of Operations into two divisions; the establishment of integrated operational teams comprising political officers and military, police, administrative, and support specialists within the regional divisions of the Office of Operations; and, the creation of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division.

8. The newly approved capacities have been established: the Chief of Staff, who directs the shared Department of Peacekeeping Operations-Department of Field Support Executive Office, Registry, Peacekeeping Information Management capacity, and the Situation Centre; a Public Affairs Section in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations; the Integrated Mission Planning Capacity in the Office of Operations; security sector reform capacity in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions; and evaluation and partnership capacities in the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division. In addition, appointments to newly established leadership and senior management positions have been made. The strengthening of capacities in both Departments is nearing completion with the selection of staff to 147 out of the 152 positions authorized by the General Assembly. The recruitment of the remaining positions, as well as all positions subsequently authorized by the General Assembly for the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs, continues to be a priority.

9. The common goals and interlinked mandates of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support require that they function in a coherent way at all levels of activity. Therefore, ensuring unity of command and integration of effort has been a central element of the restructuring process.

10. Forums established at the strategic and policy levels to facilitate Department of Peacekeeping Operations-Department of Field Support integration have given priority to restructuring and strategic planning, while joint operational structures have focused on mission-specific issues in an integrated manner. In 2009, joint Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support policy development or review priorities include: integrated mission planning, mission start-up, field support doctrine, management and integration doctrine, and security in peacekeeping operations. In the months ahead, the two Departments will also launch a forward-looking analysis of challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping in the medium-term to help to identify approaches that would minimize risk and maximize the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Office of Operations

11. The Office of Operations continues to be headed at the Assistant Secretary-General level. The capacity of the Office has been enhanced with the reorganization of the Africa Division into two, the establishment of integrated operational teams, and an integrated mission planning capacity. The role of the Office of Operations continues to be to provide political, strategic, policy and operational guidance and support to the missions.

12. The integrated operational teams are the principal structure for integration of operational guidance and support to field missions on cross-cutting issues. The teams have represented one of the more significant challenges of restructuring. Since my last report, all seven integrated operational teams in the Office of Operations have been established. With the benefit of a real-time "lessons learned" exercise, conducted by the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division during the start-up phase of the Darfur integrated operational team, a workplan was developed to support the formation and establishment of integrated operational teams, giving emphasis to recruitment, guidance, training, information management, and work process improvement.

13. Following the progressive establishment of the integrated operational teams, an internal stocktaking in August 2008 identified and addressed the early challenges faced by the teams. The exercise highlighted a number of issues: (a) inconsistent perceptions on reporting lines of integrated operational team specialists, given the decision to staff and budget such specialists within their functional areas rather than the Office of Operations where the integrated operational team structures are located; (b) the accommodation of fewer resources than requested for the teams has resulted in the creation of three models. There are integrated operational teams dedicated to a specific mission, teams that cover several missions, and teams that cover several missions and must share specialist staff with another team in the same regional division. As a result, decisions on integrated operational team configuration and guidance developed for the management and operation of the teams have not been universally applicable, but are rather reflective of an assessment of the operational imperatives created by resource limitations; (c) difficulties in identifying candidates with the required profile have resulted in significant delays in filling specialist officer positions, and therefore the establishment and functioning of the integrated operational teams. In the case of seconded officers, there has been a need for significant on-the-job training within their specialist functional areas in the Department prior to their deployment to the integrated operational teams. The stocktaking also revealed a lack of consistency in functions, empowerment, authority and delivery of work by the integrated operational team officers.

14. A more formal and extensive evaluation of the integrated operational teams is currently being concluded by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Evaluation Team. Initial findings indicate general agreement on the merits of the integrated operational team structure in allowing integrated guidance and support to missions on cross-cutting issues through a single, integrated entity. The greatest value is perceived to be in the integration of planning and support to mission start-ups, as well as greater responsiveness and coherence during upsurges in mission activity and crisis response. Benefits have been less tangible for stable missions, where relationships between specialist functional areas and field missions, as well as Member States are well established but a capacity to respond rapidly to crises is a constant necessity. It is inevitable that the degree of structural change undertaken to establish the integrated operational teams will require mid-course adjustments to ensure the successful accomplishment of their objectives.

15. During 2008, guidance and standard operating procedures have been developed on core work processes and a manual for integrated operational teams is due to be completed. Training in core functions, such as reporting, monitoring and analysis, has also been provided. Teambuilding, induction and specialist training exercises have been undertaken with each team. In addition, quarterly induction

briefings have been conducted by the Office of Operations to facilitate the integration of new staff members. To address these issues, the Integrated Operational Team Working Group has made the development of guiding principles for the teams a priority, as well as creation of a revised and consolidated matrix on the broad division of labour between teams and specialist functional areas. The terms of reference for the integrated operational teams are currently under revision, and a review of their configuration will take place in early 2009. More emphasis will also be given during the coming year to streamlining integrated operational team work processes and interactions with other relevant departments within the Secretariat as well as with missions in the field and Member States.

16. A number of resources shared by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support have also ensured unity of effort and organizational coherence, while supporting efficiency. These include: the Office of the Chief of Staff; the information management capacity within the Office of the Chief of Staff; the Situation Centre; as of January 2009, the Registry; the Executive Office; the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division and the Public Affairs Section integrates communications and manages media relations, publicity and external relations.

17. In the Department of Field Support, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General is introducing and coordinating a risk management approach in the planning and management of field operations; the Senior Leadership Appointments Section provides secretariat functions for Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support vacancy management and succession planning for senior leadership appointments in field operations; the Conduct and Discipline Unit develops and oversees the implementation of policies and procedures to promote good conduct and discipline by all categories of personnel; and the focal point for audit and boards of inquiry coordinates and ensures follow-up in addressing audit findings and implementing recommendations.

18. Essential to unity of effort and coherence and the effectiveness of integrated structures is the improvement of work processes. In February 2008, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Field Support and Management launched a Business Process Improvement Initiative to streamline and improve work processes and develop capacity to contribute to continuous organizational improvement. Following a needs assessment, priority has been given to the broad areas of planning, personnel, and procurement. The first phase of the Initiative, comprising 10 improvement projects, was launched in September 2008 and is due to be completed in February 2009. To facilitate project implementation, the Initiative is supported by the Lean Six Sigma Capacity-Building programme, which comprises concepts and tools, as well as a rigorous methodology to significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of work processes.

19. Information management also plays an important role in the integration, collaboration and efficiency of work processes within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. Their joint Information Management Committee has given priority to coordination of initiatives that support the integration of information between the two Departments as well as information from the field. These include: the development or revision of Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support governance of information management, at the strategic, policy and procedural levels, to ensure the

proper handling, access, and sharing of information; the Strategic Management System — a framework for the collection, integration, and access to select operational information in support of both Departments and field decision-making; enhancements to the peace operations Intranet to facilitate the contribution of mission content from and in support of field operations and collaboration and task management tools to facilitate the functioning of the integrated operational teams.

20. To ensure that the integration of Headquarters on field planning processes has ongoing impact, work on the integrated mission planning process methodology has focused on the completion of a guidance package by mid-2009 that operationalizes the 2006 integrated mission planning process internal guidelines endorsed by the Secretary-General. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has designated the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to lead the process within the Secretariat in close cooperation with the United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes.

21. The guidance package will include modules covering strategic assessment, the role of Headquarters, and the role of the field. A key requirement identified by the Secretary-General is for field missions to complete an integrated strategic framework as a mechanism to establish joint priorities for the United Nations field mission and the United Nations country team. The field level guidelines will be enriched with examples of innovations in planning and implementation of integration currently under way in some missions. Following the release of the guidance package in mid-2009, the focus will be on planning and resourcing a training initiative on the integrated mission planning process with all the key partners, including Member States.

Office of Military Affairs

22. The implementation of the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs is ongoing, as approved by the General Assembly, which allocated 45 additional posts in the support account budget for 2008/2009. Six of those posts will be placed in the Department of Field Support to ensure integration of logistical support, while the remainder are to be deployed within the existing Office of Military Affairs structure. In order to effect this strengthening, the recruitment process commenced immediately with the intention to conclude it by mid-2009.

23. This increase in staff will enable the Office of Military Affairs to carry out its task more effectively and efficiently with enhanced capacity to plan, generate and monitor the military components of peacekeeping operations, as well as to liaise closely with troop-contributing countries. A strengthened Office of Military Affairs will allow for better strategic and operational planning, including comprehensive field assessments and contingencies for current and new peacekeeping operations. The Office of Military Affairs will also improve its capacity and ability to support and guide military operations in the field. It will also be able to provide additional tasks such as developing policy and doctrine documents and undertaking military situation assessments vested in the Office of the Military Adviser and carrying out the operational advisory functions vested in the Military Planning Service. These functions should be available by late 2009, allowing the necessary induction time for newly recruited officers. For the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs to be successfully completed within the above outlined timeframe, it will be essential to receive sufficient funding and applications from qualified candidates.

Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions

24. The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions was established within the Department for Peacekeeping Operations in 2007 in response to the needs identified in the report of the United Nations Panel on Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809). Its structure is designed to ensure that complex peace operations take a holistic approach to policing and law enforcement, building judicial, legal and corrections capacities, addressing the threat posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war and conducting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform programmes in collaboration with national authorities.

25. To support early inclusion of these key initiatives in mission planning and start-up on the ground, the Office has initiated targeted approaches to support recruitment and rapid deployment of qualified personnel. The security sector reform capacity has developed a roster of specialists and has contacted Member States for candidates and support. The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration section and the security sector reform capacity are working with the Department of Field Support to improve cooperation on roster management and outreach.

26. To further strengthen the ability of the United Nations to deliver on rule of law mandates in a timely and adequate manner, the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section and the Police Division are working to deliver predeployment training to judicial, corrections and police officers, respectively. The Police Division is developing guidance on temporary detentions in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Section is developing and updating guidelines on the activities of justice and corrections components in peace operations and finalizing a standardized methodology for reviewing the work of these components. Guidelines for the administration of United Nations corrections officers on assignment to peacekeeping operations are also under development. The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section is expanding the system-wide Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards to address the nexus between disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and transitional justice. To ensure internal coordination and cohesion within the Secretariat and with United Nations partners, the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions is actively engaged in a wide range of sectoral and inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

27. During 2008, the Police Division provided operational support and guidance to approximately 12,000 United Nations police officers including formed police units. It supported the deployment of an increasing number of formed police units to many field operations including in Haiti, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur. The Police Division has also forged and explored strategic and operational partnerships to ensure successful implementation of mission mandates. The Division has developed and reviewed a series of guidelines, directives and standard operating procedures for Headquarters and field operations in order to facilitate the implementation of respective mission mandates.

28. The Standing Police Capacity, an element of the Police Division, completed its first assignment to the United Nations mission in Chad in late 2007, leading the start-up of the mission's police component and supporting a training programme for a Chadian police service to provide law and order in refugee and internally displaced person sites. The Standing Police Capacity also assisted the mission in

Timor-Leste by advising on transition of law and order responsibilities to the national police. In addition, it undertook brief assessments in support of other missions.

29. In 2008, the security sector reform capacity's priorities included the provision of operational support to the missions in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, the Sudan and Timor-Leste, and the development of strategic security sector reform guidance and training including in the area of defence sector reform. Further priorities include supporting the African Union in developing its own security sector reform strategy. During 2008, the capacity also supported the efforts of the Department of Political Affairs to provide security sector reform support to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), the effort of the United Nations Office in West Africa to support security sector reform in Guinea Conakry and initiatives of the Peacebuilding Support Office to support security sector reform efforts in the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA).

30. The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section develops guidance and provides operational support to peacekeeping operations. It supported seven missions during the reporting period, including a start-up of a new component in one mission. The Section has increasingly spent time on contingency planning for a possible new peacekeeping operation in Somalia. The current disarmament, demobilization and reintegration caseload is over 600,000 combatants. Of these, 272,651 have been disarmed and demobilized. The Section also continues to co-chair the 16-member Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, crucial to coordinating joint United Nations actions on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration-related issues.

31. The United Nations Mine Action Service activities continued at a sustained level in support of MONUC, UNMIS and UNAMID. New assessed funds permitted an increase in capability in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and the build-up of capacity in MINURCAT. In UNIFIL, approximately 90 per cent of the work has been completed and plans are being implemented to transfer responsibility for the management of mine action to national authorities from 2009 onwards. The transition planning process is also well advanced in UNMIS. In the future, the Service expects to provide increased assistance in regard to the destruction of cluster munitions and ammunition stockpiles.

32. During 2008 the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section supported 11 peacekeeping and special political missions and is currently preparing an initial concept of activities for possible engagement in Somalia. It supports the justice and corrections components of these missions to assist national authorities in strengthening judicial, legal and prison systems. It also manages a microfunding facility for projects aimed at strengthening the justice and prisons sectors in countries with United Nations missions and operates an Internet-based rule of law forum (the Rule of Law Community of Practice), linking Headquarters and field staff.

Policy, Evaluation and Training Division

33. The Policy, Evaluation and Training Division comprises the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, the Integrated Training Service and small teams for evaluation and partnerships.

34. The Best Practices Section continued its focus on its core programmes of lesson learning through effective knowledge management, supporting guidance development in both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, and leading the development of cross-cutting doctrine. These core programmes were detailed in the report of the Secretary-General on Peacekeeping Best Practices (A/62/593 and Corr.1). The Section will also continue to support both Departments with general policy advice.

35. The Section's thematic advisers and focal points on gender, HIV/AIDS, civil affairs and child protection provide policy and technical guidance to field missions and the organizational units of both Departments.

36. The gender mainstreaming System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was reviewed and updated. Additional guidance materials supporting the work of gender advisers in the field including on how to support national police to promote gender-sensitive policing practices was issued. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is also fully engaged in the follow-up to Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), including the coordination of the report of the Secretary-General on prevention of sexual violence during conflict.

37. The HIV/AIDS units in missions continue their efforts to provide peacekeepers with HIV education, along with voluntary counselling and testing with assured consent and confidentiality; training of peer educators and HIV counsellors from contingents; and provision of critical supplies, including post-exposure prophylaxis kits, in all missions. Training materials on HIV/AIDS has been improved and as part of this effort, the HIV educational film *Hidden Risk* was dubbed into the languages of the eight largest troop- and police-contributing countries. The peer education training module and the voluntary confidential counselling and testing standard operating procedures are expected to be ready by early 2009.

38. In January 2008, the temporarily appointed child protection focal point began the process of preparing a policy on child protection activities in field missions, in close consultation with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Extensive field consultations were conducted and the policy is expected to be finalized in early 2009 and will be followed by a workshop with child protection advisers from all field missions.

39. The Integrated Training Service conducted a strategic training needs assessment in the first half of 2008 with a wide cross-section of peacekeeping personnel, civilian, military and police, and peacekeeping partners, including peacekeeping training institutions. The findings of the needs assessment were translated into a United Nations peacekeeping training strategy, approved by senior management later in 2008. The strategy has been shared with Member States. The development of a set of minimum training standards is a key component of the strategy and has been a priority over the past year. The updated training material and training standards will be available in early 2009. A report with more detailed information on the implementation of the strategy in all its aspects will be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its resumed sixty-third session. Training support to Member States is part of the strategy and modalities for strengthening such support are being developed, in close consultation with key stakeholders. The Integrated Training Service is working closely with the thematic advisers and focal points in the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section and the

Conduct and Discipline Unit to ensure that the most up-to-date training materials on HIV/AIDs, gender, child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse are fully integrated into the minimum standards for pre-deployment training of all United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

40. The small Evaluation Team located within the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section has, in accordance with the Secretariat's evaluation goals for 2008-2009, conducted mission evaluations in support of the revision of the Joint Operations Centre/Joint Mission Analysis Centre policy in MINUSTAH, UNMIS, UNAMID and UNMIT. So far this year, the Evaluation Team has conducted an evaluation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Field Support and Department of Political Affairs planning processes for the transition from UNIOSIL to UNIPSIL, an evaluation of the integrated operational teams, and an evaluation of mission support operations in UNMIS. The Evaluation Team has also provided support for the Police Division-led evaluation of the Standing Police Capacity.

III. Status on progress on the implementation of Peace Operations 2010

41. The Secretariat continues to strengthen the instrument of United Nations peacekeeping by undertaking reforms in accordance with the proposals and lines of reform activity outlined in the Peace Operations 2010 agenda. This vision for reform was formulated in 2005 in close consultation with Member States and is divided into five key areas crucial to successful peacekeeping: personnel, doctrine, partnerships, resources and organization.

Personnel

42. In the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (A/62/627 and Add.1), the Secretary-General put forward a number of human resources reform proposals aimed at improving the Organization's ability to attract, recruit, retain and rapidly deploy skilled and experienced civilian personnel to peacekeeping operations. They include the streamlining of contractual arrangements, the harmonization of conditions of service of staff in the field with those of the United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, and the establishment of 2,500 civilian career peacekeepers. The human resources reform proposals are described in detail in the report of the Secretary-General on civilian career peacekeepers (A/61/850) and his report entitled "Detailed proposals for streamlining United Nations contractual arrangements: a way forward" (A/63/298). As of the time of writing the present report, the proposals are under active consideration by the General Assembly.

43. A comprehensive report on welfare and recreation is being prepared, as requested by the Special Committee for review by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. The report will provide information on the status of welfare and recreation in peacekeeping and special political missions. It will also include proposals for minimum standards of welfare and recreation activities and equipment across peacekeeping and special political missions and the financial implications of such proposals.

44. In April 2008, I approved the convening of an inter-agency working group to study the possibility of establishing a rapidly deployable rule of law capacity to complement the Standing Police Capacity. The working group has been exploring the potential need for a standing secretariat capacity of justice and corrections and possibly of human rights specialists to help start up new missions and reinforce existing ones. The concept being considered is a secretariat capacity in the range of 14 to 17 specialists to be deployed alongside the Standing Policy Capacity, as and if necessary. The working group will finalize its recommendations in early 2009, and the secretariat will be prepared to brief the Committee on the outcome of this process shortly thereafter.

45. To address the issue of negligible levels of participation of women in uniformed services, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations also continues to engage with troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries on the increased deployment of women uniformed personnel. As part of this engagement, on 26 November, the Department, together with a number of Member States, provided an informal briefing to the Special Committee on experiences of Member States to increase the number of women uniformed peacekeeping personnel. The briefing also reviewed strategies for improving gender-specific priorities of women peacekeepers. The Department is also engaging women from police-contributing and troop-contributing countries that are also hosting peacekeeping missions.

46. On 19 June 2008, the Security Council adopted resolution 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security. The resolution reinforces Council resolution 1325 (2000) and deals mainly with sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. It requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council by 30 June 2009 on implementation of the resolution. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been designated by the Secretary-General's Office to lead preparation of the report in consultation with United Nations partners and other concerned stakeholders. In parallel to preparing the report, the Department will be elaborating a comprehensive strategy and operational guidance to support more effective integration of the provisions of resolution 1820 (2008) in the work of peacekeeping missions.

Doctrine

47. The Peace Operations 2010 doctrine agenda is progressing across both Departments. With the publication of the *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* in 2008, high-level internal direction has been set for ongoing guidance development in-house. Relevant content from that document is being incorporated into existing training materials and disseminated to missions and among partners, as a reference tool. During 2008, other guidance has been under development, ranging from the revision and finalization of a mission start-up guide and mission liquidation manual, through to standard operating procedures for telecommunications equipment to the launch of police doctrine initiatives. Guidelines for integrated operational teams, the Secretary-General's bulletins on the functions and organization of both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support and guidance on civil-military coordination are also under preparation.

48. Beyond specialist doctrine development, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support doctrine development will require a

concerted cross-departmental strategy to undertake successfully a number of critical doctrinal projects to the end of 2010. Key doctrine development targets under this strategy include a high-level field support doctrine, a document on mission integration and management, guidance on security and crisis management in United Nations peacekeeping, security sector reform guidance, contract management guidance and the finalization of materials on the inter-agency integrated mission planning process. An ongoing Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs study on protection of civilians in the context of peacekeeping mandates may also contribute to doctrine and guidance development in this area of increasing demand.

Partnerships

49. The Partnerships capacity of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division is another new capacity approved by the General Assembly last year. It is strengthening cooperation with United Nations system entities and international financial institutions including the establishment of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Department of Peacekeeping Operations work programme that will support the development of joint programming procedures for activities undertaken by missions and a joint benchmarking study to provide templates and guidance for mission planners on how to establish, monitor and evaluate indicators to measure the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and guide transition planning. The team is working actively with other United Nations entities that play an important operational role in post-conflict contexts, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It is also actively engaged in system-wide negotiation of a United Nations-World Bank declaration on cooperation in crisis contexts. This is a critical first step to ensuring a more coherent approach between security and development actors so as to enable more rapid response to recovery challenges, in particular the delivery of a peace dividend and support to economic reconstruction.

50. The partnerships capacity has developed joint United Nations-European Union guidelines on planning cooperation where European Union operations deploy in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations; initiated a joint education project to increase knowledge and awareness of respective mission planning and procedures; conducted joint lessons-learned studies on cooperation in the planning and deployment of the multidimensional international presence in Chad and shared United Nations best practices and knowledge management system as the European Union develops a mechanism for lessons learned for civilian crisis management operations. Given the breadth of this cooperation in the field, the importance of regular and sustained engagement with the European Union is essential.

51. The Partnership capacity is cooperating with the African Union peacekeeping support team within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The African Union Peacekeeping Support Team continues to develop its workplan jointly with the African Union, emphasizing African Union ownership. The Support Team focuses on three main areas of support: (a) mission planning; (b) mission management; and (c) logistics and resource management. Within these, the Support Team has developed and facilitated a number of projects and direct training support. It also facilitated a study to determine the structural requirements of the African Union Peace Support Operations Division and provided support to the African Union-

United Nations panel on the study on financing for African Union peacekeeping operations established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1809 (2008). The report of the panel is expected to be submitted to the Security Council for its consideration in early 2009. The African Union Peacekeeping Support Team also interacts actively with other African Union capacity-building partners, in New York and Addis Ababa, and through mechanisms such as the G8++ Africa Clearing House and the European Union-United Nations Steering Committee.

52. In addition, the Partnership's capacity has provided support to wider United Nations cooperation initiatives with other regional organizations, including the establishment of a framework agreement on United Nations-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) cooperation between the respective Secretaries-General of the two organizations to facilitate operational cooperation where the United Nations and NATO operate side by side, and annual consultations with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Resources

53. In response to a request from the Special Committee, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations developed in early 2007 a draft Reinforcement or Enhanced Rapidly Deployable Capacities Policy. This policy was used to identify the missions most in need of Enhanced Rapidly Deployable Capacities and to define the size and capabilities required for each of these missions. Member States that were assessed to either have a national interest in the mission, or that possessed the capabilities required were subsequently requested to pledge for specific missions. Of the positive responses received, the pledges were insufficient to raise Enhanced Rapidly Deployable Capacities for any mission. During its 2008 session, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations decided to reconvene its informal open-ended working group to consider the next steps. The Secretariat suspended the Reinforcement or Enhanced Rapidly Deployable Capacities Policy and offered to provide technical advice to this working group, which was to report back to the Special Committee at its next substantive session.

54. The Standing Policy Capacity as an operational arm of the Police Division in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations became fully operational during 2008. As requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,[1] a comprehensive report on the first year of operation of SPC was finalized in January 2009 by a Panel of Experts, on issues relevant to the future of the standing police capacity, including its core functions, as well as the required strength, needs of expertise and location of its base.

55. The role of the police in bridging the security gap has become a key feature of United Nations peacekeeping operations today. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has experienced an unprecedented rise in the authorized strength of police personnel, part of the overall surge in peacekeeping operations. The surge is especially reflected in a marked increase in the number of authorized formed police units. In real terms, the number of authorized police officers has more than doubled,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/62/19/Rev.1).

from 8,300 in January 2006 to 17,000 in January 2008. With the growth and evolving role of police components of peacekeeping operations, the Police Division has struggled to achieve timely, effective police selection and recruitment and keep pace with the increasing complexity of mandated tasks and volume of support required from the Secretariat.

56. These police challenges have generated frequent calls to review United Nations police operations, including by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Internal Oversight Services. As a result, a strategic review of United Nations police operations has been conducted by a Review Team undertaking a holistic approach to assessing the needs of United Nations policing today and in the future, including the need to recruit and retain high-quality police specialists as well as strengthen the linkages with judicial, legal and prisons systems. The initial review reveals that the Police Division will need additional resources to be able to meet in an effective and efficient manner the increasingly complex demands that are being placed upon it by Member States. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has put forward a number of recommendations in this regard for consideration by the General Assembly.

57. A related review on formed police units assessing the operational orders and plans to ensure clarity and conciseness in regard to the use of these units, as well as issues of operational command and tactical control is also under way. Recent events have shown that there is a need to develop and implement specific guidelines pertaining to the equipment, use of weapons and ammunition, and particularly the future role and responsibilities of the formed police units.

58. The Strategic Deployment Stock has proven to be an invaluable resource. In the period between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008 alone, a total of 15 missions benefited from the availability of this resource. Several major consignments were dispatched from the Strategic Deployment Stock storage facilities at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy, to missions in Africa and the Middle East in support of start-up and expansion, and a number of smaller but operationally critical consignments were also shipped during the period. Strategic Deployment Stock is a revolving inventory, it is dynamic in nature and replenishment is an ongoing process. As of 2 December 2008, the overall value of the resource was estimated at approximately $159 million of which approximately $75 million worth of equipment is held in stock and a further $84 million worth of equipment is undergoing replenishment. In light of experience, the Department of Field Support will continue enhancing the operational effectiveness of the Strategic Deployment Stock.

Organization

59. The Department of Field Support was established to provide integrated support to United Nations field operations in the areas of human resources, finance and budgeting, conduct and discipline, logistics, information and communications technology and other administrative and general management matters. In this regard, the Department continues to work closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Management and other key partners, to ensure

that field perspectives and needs receive priority attention by the Secretariat and Member States in the planning and decision-making processes.

60. While the Department of Field Support strives to improve the support immediately delivered to some of the most complex and challenging operations in the field, it works to develop a support strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its service in the longer term. The key aims of the support strategy are: (a) quickly deploy resources while maintaining high accountability and compliance with United Nations rules and regulations; (b) effectively and efficiently protect resources entrusted to the United Nations by the Member States; (c) manage risks; (d) attract, retain, motivate and develop human resources according to the gender and geographical balance objectives of the Organization; (e) foster proper conduct and discipline of all categories of United Nations personnel; (f) ensure operational safety and security, (g) foster coordination and integration with partners; and (h) foster methodical self-evaluation (including collection and analysis of performance data) as a basis for self-improvement.

61. Unity of command and integration in the field have been strengthened through the delegation of overall responsibility to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of Mission, who reports to the Secretary-General through the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for all aspects of United Nations operations, including military, police, and administration. Heads of Mission Support in field missions continue to exercise administrative authority under the overall direction of the Head of Mission. This measure was reinforced in February 2008 by a command and control policy clarifying command and control arrangements in the field for uniformed as well as relevant civilian structures and their relationships to each other. At Headquarters, unity of command has been sustained through arrangements envisaged in General Assembly resolution 61/279, by which the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support reports to and receives direction from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on all peacekeeping issues.

62. With regard to the redistribution of responsibilities, the Office of Human Resources Management in the Department of Management has proceeded with a general expansion of delegation of authority to the Field Personnel Division within the Department of Field Support to classify field positions up to and including the D-1 level, approve the movement of staff to higher levels, and make discretionary decisions in the management of staff and the administration of benefits. The Department of Management is reviewing a Department of Field Support-produced comprehensive inventory of all human resources management delegations of authority exercised by the Office of Human Resources Management, the Field Personnel Division and field operations, with a view to identifying areas to further align and delegate authorities, so as to address bottlenecks and enhance the recruitment, administration, and management of field staff.

63. In response to the decision of the Secretary-General to renew efforts to improve the coherence and efficiency of the United Nations integrated approach in post-conflict countries, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is leading a senior-level Integration Steering Group that will address ways to enhance planning and implementation of a United Nations integrated approach and to overcome obstacles, particularly with regard to administrative and support arrangements building on good practice established by missions in the field.

64. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations has devoted much-deserved attention to one form of serious misconduct, namely sexual exploitation and abuse. It has noted that, in addition to the detrimental impact substantiated allegations of such misconduct has on the credibility of peacekeeping missions, troop-contributing countries and United Nations personnel, unsubstantiated and legally unproven allegations of such misconduct may sometimes have a comparably negative effect on the reputation of United Nations peacekeeping. The Secretariat routinely provides feedback to the Member State concerned on the results of investigations conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services or other investigative entities in peacekeeping missions. In addition, the Secretariat is developing a reporting mechanism whereby the outcome of disciplinary cases for all categories of personnel is reported to the public for all peacekeeping missions. The reporting mechanism will provide relevant information on the number of cases where allegations are legally unproven, as well as where allegations have been legally proven and corresponding measures taken, either by the Secretariat or by the Member State concerned, depending on the category of personnel.

65. The Department of Field Support is working closely with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to reconcile and share statistical data on misconduct. Although it has not been feasible to develop a common database, the introduction of the new Misconduct Tracking System, by the Conduct and Discipline Unit, on 1 July 2008 is a positive step forward in this direction.

66. Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs/Executive Committee on Peace and Security, United Nations and NGO Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse continues its work on training, information-sharing, response mechanisms, living and working conditions, and drafting of clarification guidelines on United Nations policy to address sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2008, the Task Force conducted missions to Kenya and Liberia. In 2009, missions are planned to Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal. The preparation of implementation guidelines for the comprehensive strategy of assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel (resolution 62/214, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2007) is one of the key outputs of the Task Force. The finalized guidelines are expected to be ready at the beginning of 2009.

67. The conduct and discipline teams in missions have continued to ensure the delivery of training for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, for all levels and categories of personnel. At Headquarters, the Conduct and Discipline Unit is developing a new comprehensive training package addressing the issue of misconduct in general.

68. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to expand outreach and partnership support to women's organizations in post-conflict countries to build their capacity to participate in peacebuilding processes. For example, in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in partnership with UNDP is supporting national consultations leading to the development of the National Action Plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). In Timor-Leste, the mission is working with other United Nations partners to support the Government's efforts to develop a gender strategy. Partnership with women's groups also includes ongoing efforts, for

example, in the Sudan and Timor-Leste, for example, to strengthen their participation in upcoming elections.

IV. Observations

69. The institutional capacity and operational capability of United Nations peacekeeping has increased markedly since the outset of the Brahimi reform process and this is due, in great measure, to the guidance, support and collaboration of Member States. While full success cannot be claimed and setbacks are all too common, it is safe to say that United Nations peacekeeping has played a central role in reducing the threat of renewed conflict creating a framework within which countries can turn from conflict towards peacebuilding and sustainable economic and social development. Post-conflict progress in Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste serves as testament to this.

70. With this measured success has come increased demand for United Nations peacekeeping. This is an indication of the confidence Member States have in United Nations peacekeeping. Yet there is a risk that peacekeeping may be too readily called upon, chosen as the response to situations where, in fact, there is no peace to keep. Certainly, peacekeepers must be prepared to deploy robustly to deal with armed spoilers. But, to succeed, peacekeepers need to operate in an environment where at least the main actors have acceded to a peace process and to the deployment of the peacekeeping force. However, increasingly, today United Nations peacekeepers are asked to protect civilians and even hold territory amid spiralling violence between the main parties to the conflict. They are asked to help to stabilize conflict zones, holding the line while awaiting progress from lagging peace negotiations. The Secretariat and Member States will need to consider together where the limits of robust United Nations peacekeeping lie, how protection of civilians and mandates can be implemented in that context, and how to ensure that sufficient resources are available.

71. The ongoing surge has also highlighted the gap between mandates and resources that is widening with this level of worldwide peace operations. The Organization will need to find ways to secure more resources — human and material — or to consider scaling down our mandates and expectations. The lack of helicopters in Darfur is one well-documented example. Troop contributions are becoming scarcer, especially niche and enabling capabilities more easily found in the armed forces of developed Member States. The scale and complexity of United Nations peacekeeping today call for broadening the base of troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries, to include more Member States of the global North. The presence of peacekeepers from across the entire United Nations membership also sends a powerful political signal to the parties to conflicts. I would welcome a discussion on the issues that may need to be addressed to accomplish this, as I believe broader burden-sharing of troop and police contributions is vital for the operational sustainability and viability of United Nations peacekeeping.

72. In response to the ever-increasing demand and complexity, the United Nations must also continue to build its partnerships with regional organizations and other multilateral and bilateral partners. The aim must be to create, as much complementarity as possible so that expert capacity and comparative advantages can be brought to bear in complex situations on the ground, where the implementation

of one common strategy supported both by the national and international actors covering a wide range of issues: security, political, governance and economic recovery assistance, important both to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, is coordinated and mutually reinforcing.

73. Therefore, to complement peacekeeping capabilities the peacebuilding capacities of the United Nations system must also be reviewed and strengthened where necessary, so that from the outset, early in the peacekeeping phase, if not before, the ground is laid to ensure that national institutions are rebuilt and are able to maintain the peace and foster stability. I will be presenting a report on peacebuilding which will reflect a significant enhancement of our processes and capacities such that the impact of United Nations actions will both lead to visible peace dividend for the benefit of the local people and lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

74. Millions of people around the world look to United Nations peacekeeping as their best hope for support and assistance to help them navigate the path of peace and progress while holding the line against renewed conflict. It is imperative, therefore, that the Organization continues to ensure that these expectations are met by strengthening peacekeeping and deploying it with the mandates and resources necessary for success.

United Nations A/63/616

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 118
Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Review of the lump-sum arrangement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the lump-sum arrangement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (A/63/537). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted in compliance with paragraph 23.20 of document A/56/6 (Sect. 23), pursuant to which UNHCR would review, after three bienniums, the lump-sum arrangement, which began in the biennium 2002-2003, to fund a portion of the Office's management and administration-related costs under the United Nations regular budget.

3. As the Secretary-General indicated in section II of his report, prior to the lump-sum arrangement, UNHCR post and non-post resource requirements were subject to the same detailed budgetary process as other sections of the programme budget. However, given that the total funding from the United Nations regular budget represented only 2.6 per cent of the total budget of UNHCR for the biennium 2000-2001, those arrangements were found to be too cumbersome for the Office. It was therefore decided that a review should be undertaken on the funding of UNHCR from the regular budget to determine whether other budgetary arrangements, such as a lump-sum grant, would be administratively more effective (see A/52/6 (Sect. 23), para. 23.14).

4. In section III of his report, the Secretary-General indicated that the aforementioned review took into consideration article 20 of the statute of UNHCR, pursuant to which, unless the General Assembly subsequently decides otherwise, no expenditures, other than administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of the Office, are to be borne by the budget of the United Nations and all other

08-65838 (E) 181208

expenditures relating to the functioning of the Office are to be financed by voluntary contributions. Due consideration was also given to the Advisory Committee's view of the term "administrative expenditures", which has been interpreted to mean expenses other than operational expenses and the related management costs (see A/2157, part III). As a result of that interpretation, UNHCR and the Secretariat agreed that a distinction should be made between operational and non-operational staff, and that operational support staff, including related costs, should be financed exclusively from the voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner.

5. In paragraph 11 of his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, following an exercise to redefine and recategorize UNHCR posts into three categories (management and administration, programme support and programme posts), the management and administration category was found to be consistent with the type of posts (non-operational) funded by the regular budget prior to the redefinition and recategorization exercise. The number of management and administration posts identified by UNHCR at the time of the exercise amounted to 433. The number of posts financed by the regular budget for the biennium 2000-2001 had amounted to 220 (including the posts of High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner), or 50.8 per cent of the number of posts categorized as management and administration posts. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 1 January 2009, there would be a total of 503 management and administration posts at UNHCR. Should the General Assembly endorse the maintenance of the lump-sum arrangement, 220 of those posts would continue to be funded from the regular budget.

6. For the biennium 2000-2001, the amount of $2,326,300 had been provided from the regular budget towards UNHCR non-post administrative expenditures. Using as a basis the 50.8 per cent figure described above and applying it to the estimated non-post costs of $28,355,400 for the management and administration category would have resulted in an increase in the regular budget contribution towards non-post administrative expenditure from $2,326,300 to $14,404,500. However, taking into account the budgetary constraints of the United Nations at that time, it was not considered that such a substantial increase in the Organization's contribution to UNHCR could be included in the regular budget proposals for the biennium 2002-2003. It was considered, at that stage, that an increase of $2 million, or 5.1 per cent, could be proposed for the biennium 2002-2003, with subsequent increases to be considered in the context of proposals for each subsequent biennium, but not to exceed $2.5 million (see A/60/7, para. VI.22).

7. As the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 13 of his report, it was determined that the provision of a grant would simplify the work of UNHCR by eliminating the need for separate administrative procedures in respect of half of the management and administration posts. It was also decided, however, that the posts of High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner would continue to be funded from the regular budget and shown separately from the grant. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNHCR reports its expenditures under the regular budget, broken down into post and non-post resources, to United Nations Headquarters on an annual basis.

8. In section IV of his report, the Secretary-General outlined the reasons for retaining the lump-sum grant arrangement. In essence, that arrangement has simplified the work of UNHCR by eliminating the need for separate administrative

procedures in respect of the management and administration posts funded under the United Nations regular budget.

9. In paragraph 19 of his report, the Secretary-General asserted that, since UNHCR standard costs for posts are higher than United Nations standard costs as a result of the rotation policy of the Office, budgeting for posts based on United Nations parameters does not always correspond to UNHCR parameters. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNHCR salary scales, like those used by the United Nations, consist of two elements: salary costs (including a post adjustment multiplier) and common staff costs. However, the common staff costs portion of UNHCR salaries is significantly larger than the corresponding portion of United Nations salaries owing to the higher costs of assignment grants and mobility allowances incurred as a result of the Office's mandatory rotation policy. In this connection, the Committee draws attention to its report on the UNHCR revised programme budget 2008-2009, in which it made a series of comments on the management of UNHCR, including with regard to human resources, in particular the efforts undertaken by the Office to reduce the number of staff in between assignments (see A/AC.96/1040/Add.1 and Corr.1).

10. The action required of the General Assembly is set out in paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's report. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General and endorse the maintenance of the lump-sum arrangement for funding of UNHCR in future budget presentations of the proposed programme budget.**

United Nations A/63/617

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 62 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Programme budget implications of revised draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/14) on the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the statement, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and authorize the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to meet for an additional week per session, as a temporary measure, with effect from August 2009 until 2011, it is estimated that additional requirements for the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 could arise over and above the current provisions in the programme budget for 2008-2009 to provide for staff costs, daily subsistence allowances for members of the Committee and conference-servicing requirements for 10 additional meetings in August 2009 in order to address the persisting backlog of reports of States parties awaiting consideration. Moreover, it is estimated that 20 additional meetings of the Committee per year would be held in 2010-2011.

2. As the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 5 of his statement, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was informed orally, at its seventy-third session, that an estimated $437,800 would be required for 2009, pursuant to its request to the Secretariat to consider all possible measures to enable it to meet for one additional week at its seventy-fifth session. The statement also indicates that the relevant additional requirements under section 23, Human rights,

08-65864 (E) 181208

for daily subsistence allowances for the members of the Committee, and section 28E, Administration, Geneva, for conference-servicing support costs, amounting to $54,200 and $3,700, respectively, could be met from within the appropriations under those sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The remaining balance of up to $379,900 that would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would represent a charge against the contingency fund requiring additional appropriations under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

3. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's statement, the overall impact of the proposals would amount to net additional requirements of $379,900 under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The extent to which those additional requirements would necessitate additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 would be determined in the context of the consolidated statement of all statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates, which, together with the proposals on the utilization of the contingency fund, is due to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the main part of its sixty-third session.

4. **Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt revised draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1, additional requirements of up to $379,900 may arise under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 to meet the additional conference-servicing needs of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.**

5. The Advisory Committee further notes that the net requirements for the biennium 2010-2011 are shown in paragraph 20 of the statement. **The Committee stresses that the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1 should not be seen as prejudging in any way the outcome of consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

United Nations A/63/618

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 62 (b)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/17) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

2. The Committee notes that the General Assembly, in adopting draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.65/Rev.1 (adopted as resolution 62/220), was informed that preliminary additional resources up to $6,794,700 would be required for the biennium 2008-2009 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and that, upon conclusion of discussions and negotiations and determination of the structure of the Durban Review Conference, including the regional preparatory meetings, detailed financial implications would be submitted. Accordingly, no funding was provided under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (see A/C.5/63/17, para. 4).

08-65870 (E) 181208

3. The Committee also notes that the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2008-2009, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/225, included the meetings related to the preparatory process and the holding of the Durban Review Conference. As indicated in the statement (ibid., para. 5), during 2008, the Secretariat has reviewed and coordinated information on the requirements to respond to the terms of resolution 62/220, in order to provide detailed programme budget implications. The overall estimated additional requirements to implement draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, as orally revised, are now estimated at $3,754,800 — as compared to the preliminary estimates of $6,794,700. Table 1 of the statement provides a summary of the revised estimates section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 23, Human rights, and section 28E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. As of 20 October 2008, actual expenditure associated with the preparatory process stood at $2,052,200, with additional requirements arising from the Preparatory Committee at its second session estimated at $1,702,600. Further details, including the changes, are provided in paragraphs 14 to 30 of the statement.

4. Of the overall estimated additional requirements of $3,754,800, it is estimated that an amount of $3,184,400, relating to the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational and first and second substantive sessions, will be met through absorption under the various sections. Additional resources of up to $570,400 are therefore sought to provide for the holding of the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee ($382,900) and the intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group ($187,500).

5. **Bearing in mind paragraph 35 of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/17), the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, net additional requirements of $570,400 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. The extent to which the additional requirements would need additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009 is to be determined in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the General Assembly together with the proposals on utilization of the contingency fund for these additional requirements.**

United Nations A/63/619

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 71

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law

Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law

Programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution 63/3

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of resolution 63/3, by which the General Assembly decided, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, to render an advisory opinion on whether the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo is in accordance with international law (A/C.5/63/15).

2. In paragraph 1 of the statement, it is indicated that, prior to the adoption of resolution 63/3, the General Assembly was provided with a statement of programme budget implications informing it that resources had been provided in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Court to provide advisory opinions as requested by organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies. However, it is also indicated that, owing to the complexity of the question on which the Court was requested to render an advisory opinion, it was anticipated that adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to additional resource requirements and that a detailed

08-65876 (E) 181208

statement of programme budget implications would be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration during its current session.

3. A brief description and breakdown of the estimated resource requirements is provided in paragraph 4 of the statement. The Advisory Committee was informed that this had been done on the basis of estimates provided by the International Court of Justice, its experience in previous cases, in particular with respect to the advisory opinion requested on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (resolution ES-10/14), as well as the high profile and sensitivity of the request. The Committee notes that the requirements relate to three main areas, which include the translation, reproduction, communication and transmission of documents ($243,000); security requirements ($66,500), including security support during the proceedings and taking into account the assistance of the host country authorities and the Carnegie Foundation and the secondment of security personnel from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; and media coverage ($125,500), including the costs of video streaming software, equipment set-up and live streaming and the engagement of an audio/video technician, as well as equipment rental for audio-visual support and the press centre.

4. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Court currently operates a single press room with a very limited capacity and that the Court intended to proceed, mutatis mutandis, as it had in the case of its proceedings in February and July 2004 related to the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, when live media coverage was provided. However, the Advisory Committee was not provided with sufficient information to enable it to assess the basis for the requests for additional requirements for media coverage or security. **The Committee is of the view that, given the resources allocated to the International Court of Justice under section 7 of the programme budget, requests for additional requirements should be accompanied by comprehensive information and justification. The Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General provide further justification in this regard in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

5. The Committee notes that, of the total amount estimated ($435,000), an amount of $130,000 is required for 2009 in order to process initial documentation and move forward with court proceedings. It is indicated in paragraph 7 of the statement that, after review of the provisions under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the Secretariat wishes to inform the General Assembly that efforts will be made to accommodate the estimated additional requirements of $130,000 in 2009 within the existing appropriation for the biennium. Actual expenditures will be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009, and the requirements for the biennium 2010-2011 will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

6. **Bearing in mind what is stated in paragraph 9 of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/15) and in paragraph 4 above, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of its resolution 63/3 will entail additional requirements amounting to $435,000 in respect of the International Court of Justice and that no additional appropriation is being sought for 2009, as efforts will be made to accommodate the estimated requirements of $130,000 within the programme budget for the**

biennium 2008-2009; actual expenditures will be reported in the context of the second performance report for the same biennium (see para. 5 above). The Advisory Committee trusts that adequate justification will be provided in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 relating to the areas indicated in paragraph 4 above.

United Nations A/63/620

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 118
Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/63/573). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 reflects adjustments required owing to variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in standards assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. The report also takes into account the additional mandates that the General Assembly and the Security Council have approved since the appropriation of the programme budget and unforeseen and extraordinary items that could not be deferred to the second year of the biennium.

3. Paragraphs 35 to 43 of the report deal with the limited discretion of the Secretary-General for budgetary implementation authorized in General Assembly resolution 60/283. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General was authorized, on an experimental basis, limited discretion for the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 to enter into commitments of up to $20 million in each biennium for positions and non-post requirements for the purpose of meeting the evolving needs of the Organization in attaining its mandated programmes and activities (see resolution 60/283, sect. III, para. 6). As indicated in paragraph 36 of the first performance report, during the biennium 2008-2009, the Secretary-General utilized his limited discretion for budgetary implementation to address the continued funding of a dedicated project team to maintain the momentum and ensure the progress on major foundation tasks relating to the enterprise resource planning system ($3,484,800) and to operational preparedness and business continuity in a protracted human influenza pandemic crisis ($2,422,200). Those requirements were met through the utilization of potential savings identified under section 2, General

08-65888 (E) 181208

Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 23, Human rights, and section 27, Public information.

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that in connection with the use of the limited discretion of the Secretary-General for budgetary implementation, it expressed the view that criteria for funding the evolving needs of the Organization should be worked out so as to ensure that the mechanism for financing such needs can be put in place (see A/61/635, para. 10). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the modalities for the Secretary-General's use of limited discretion were discussed and approved by the Management Committee in September 2006. Annex I below contains further information on this issue which was provided to the Committee upon request.

5. The performance report also includes information on restructuring of the Office of Human Resources Management (see A/63/573, paras. 44-47). The organizational changes in the structure of the Office have also been reported by the Secretary-General in his report on human resources management (see A/63/282, paras. 15 and 16). The Committee's comments, observations and recommendations on that report are contained in document A/63/526 and Corr.1. In his first performance report, the Secretary-General indicates that there will be no changes in post and non-post resource requirements under section 28C, Office of Human Resources Management, for the biennium 2008-2009 that would result from the proposed restructuring of the Office. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that as a document describing parameter changes, the first performance report should not deal, in principle, with issues such as the restructuring of the Secretariat. The Committee reiterates its view that the content of the first performance report should be limited to the parameters endorsed by the Assembly (see A/61/635, para. 3).**

6. The revised requirements under the expenditure sections amount to $4,388.4 million, an increase of $180.8 million, or 4.3 per cent, over the appropriation level of $4,207.6 million approved in General Assembly resolutions 62/237 A and 62/245. The revised income estimates for the biennium amount to $526.9 million, an increase of $6.8 million, or 1.3 per cent, over the initial estimate of $520.1 million. Consequently, revised net requirements amount to $3,861.5 million, an increase of $174.0 million, or 4.7 per cent, over the appropriated net requirements of $3,687.5 million.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications in response to draft resolutions under current consideration are not included in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/573). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that additional requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 not included in the first performance report would amount to some $8.7 million. These reflect requests contained in revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications submitted in response to draft resolutions considered by the Main Committees. If approved, this would bring the total revised requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 to $4,397.1 million.

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed of the status of the contingency fund for the biennium 2008-2009 (see annex II). The level of the contingency fund was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/254 in the amount of $31.5 million. The balance of the fund after the main part of the sixty-second session was $12.2 million. The Committee was informed that proposals

amounting to a total of $8.7 million were being considered by the General Assembly at its current session that would be charged to the contingency fund.

9. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 5 of the performance report, the increase of $180,793,600 in expenditures reflects the impact of the following:

(a) Additional requirements of $1,359,200 under unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in respect of peace and security ($1,159,200) and the International Court of Justice ($200,000);

(b) Additional requirements of $63,015,000 resulting from changes in exchange rates;

(c) Additional requirements of $103,819,200 due to changes in inflation assumptions;

(d) Additional requirements of $6,620,300 due to adjustments to standard salary costs;

(e) Additional requirements of $5,979,900 due to adjustments related to vacancy rates.

10. Regarding the additional requirement of $1,159,200 related to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in respect of peace and security, the Advisory Committee requested additional information on the current status of the timeline of the work of the African Union-United Nations Panel established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1809 (2008). The Committee also enquired as to the funding mechanism for the activities of the newly appointed Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. Information provided in response to the Committee's request is contained in annex III below.

11. The Advisory Committee enquired as to the current recosting methodology used by the Secretariat. Information provided to the Committee on this matter is contained in annex IV below. **The Committee urges the Secretariat in future to continue working closely with the International Civil Service Commission with a view to providing for full recosting on the basis of more up-to-date data. The Committee also recommends that the Secretary-General explore recosting methodologies used by other international organizations.**

12. With regard to the additional requirements of $63,015,000 resulting from changes in exchange rates, the Advisory Committee notes from annex I.B to the performance report that those requirements are due to the general weakening of the United States dollar during the year to date, and in particular in relation to the Swiss franc. The assumption for the biennium 2008-2009 was 1.200 Swiss francs to the dollar. The actual average rate experienced through October 2008 was 1.079 Swiss francs to the dollar. For November onward, the November rate of 1.14 Swiss francs to the dollar is used in the performance report, as indicated in schedule 3. Additional requirements related to exchange rate fluctuations for Geneva are, on this basis, estimated at $71.2 million, as indicated in annex I.B to the report.

13. As indicated in paragraph 22 of the report, increased requirements of $43.0 million relate to inflationary pressure driven largely by increases in local energy prices and utilities. The Advisory Committee points out that global and local markets have recently shown significant reductions in energy costs.

14. The Advisory Committee notes that no adjustment is proposed in connection with decisions of policymaking organs. As indicated in paragraph 13 of the report, the requirements arising from General Assembly resolutions 56/270 and 60/248 on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa and the related utilization of commitment authority in the amount of $1,936,400 gross would be reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009.

15. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the revised estimates contained in the report of the Secretary-General, subject to such adjustments as may be necessary as a result of its consideration of matters now before the Assembly, including the consolidated statement of revised estimates and programme budget implications (see para. 7 above).**

Annex I

Modalities and criteria for the use of the limited discretion of the Secretary-General for budgetary implementation authorized in General Assembly resolution 60/283

1. In general, the modalities for the use of limited discretion address the issues of (a) accountability, transparency and reporting; and (b) the criteria for the discretion, as set out below.

Accountability, transparency and reporting

2. In accordance with the request of the General Assembly for full accountability and transparency, clear records of requests made and reporting on the application of flexibility will be necessary.

3. In this connection, as is currently the process followed for actions taken under the provisions of General Assembly resolutions on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, requests under the budget flexibility authorization mirror those procedures. That is:

(a) Requests would be submitted to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (and, as it deems necessary, to the Management Policy Committee) for overarching policy consideration and approval in principle. Such requests would address the criteria detailed below;

(b) Detailed resource requests would be submitted to the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, Controller, for review following established budgetary procedures to ensure the availability of funding and to facilitate the preparation of relevant letters for the approval of the Secretary-General on the use of the funds and the application of flexibility;

(c) Full reports on the implementation of flexibility would be submitted to the General Assembly in the context of the first and second performance reports.

Criteria for application of discretion (what constitutes "evolving needs of the Organization"?)

4. Proposals for the use of budgetary discretion should be formulated taking into account the criteria set out below. The proposals should clearly indicate the resource requirements and whether such requirements are of a one-time nature (specific to the present biennium) or a continuing nature, which would carry over into the next biennium. Requirements of a continuing nature will need to be addressed through inclusion in budget proposals for subsequent periods. It should be noted that in determining what may be an evolving need of the Organization for which funding is to be made available, the Secretary-General shall not use his limited discretion in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions calling for the implementation of decisions "within existing resources" (see Assembly resolution 60/283, sect. III, para. 8 (e)). The criteria are as follows:

(a) Proposals should be mandated and justified and should effectively promote the strategic priorities of the Organization;

(b) Proposals should address a requirement that has evolved since the submission and adoption of the programme budget and that is based on, inter alia, new developments and approaches or strategies for achieving mandated objectives;

(c) The status of overall resources already available and allotted at the programme level should be ascertained. Is the proposal more appropriately funded under extrabudgetary or other funding sources? Would it be more appropriately funded under provisions for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for peace and security?

Annex II

Level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2008-2009

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Amount approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/254	**31 460.5**
Charges approved at the main part of the sixty-second session, as reflected in A/C.5/62/22	*Balance*
Report of the Human Rights Council (A/C.5/62/12 and A/62/7/Add.26)	3 988.8
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/C.5/62/15 and A/62/7/Add.21)	10 722.9
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/C.5/62/10 and A/62/7/Add.17)	342.4
Implementation of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (A/C.5/62/14 and A/62/7/Add.22)	604.0
Oceans and the law of the sea (A/C.5/62/16 and A/62/7/Add.27)	1 962.1
New Partnership for Africa's Development: modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs (A/C.5/62/20 and A/62/7/Add.24)	86.0
Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/C.5/62/2 and A/62/7/Add.13)	748.2
Revised estimates relating to the implementation of decisions of the Human Rights Council (A/62/125 and A/62/7/Add.25)	765.1
Subtotal	**19 269.5**
Balance after the main part of the sixty-second session	**12 191.0**

Sixty-third session proposals	*Amount*[a]
Revised estimates, rule of law (A/63/154, resolution 62/70)	953.8
Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms (A/C.5/63/10)	1 225.0
Statement of programme budget implications: Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: pending consideration by the Second Committee of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57	437.1
Statement of programme budget implications: Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, A/C.5/63/17)	570.4
Statement of programme budget implications: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1, A/C.5/63/14)	379.9
Statement of programme budget implications: Rights of the child (A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1, A/C.5/63/16)	1 965.5
Revised estimates: Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1, A/C.5/63/13)	513.1

Sixty-third session proposals	*Amount*[a]
Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council following its continuing review of its subsidiary machinery and its related statement of programme budget implications: consolidated statement	1 733.1
Revised estimates resulting from the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto	971.6
Statement of programme budget implications: The world financial and economic crisis and its consequences[b]	—
Subtotal	**8 749.5**
Balance after the main part of the sixty-third session	**3 441.5**

[a] Net of staff assessment.

[b] A detailed statement of programme budget implications will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration during the current session as soon as specific information on the format and modalities of the summit and the high-level meeting is available.

Annex III

Information on the African Union-United Nations Panel established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region

A. Current status of the timeline of the work of the African Union-United Nations Panel established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1809 (2008)

1. The African Union-United Nations Panel will submit its report and findings to the Secretary-General in late December 2008, after which the Secretary-General will decide when to present the report to the Security Council (currently estimated to be in early 2009). The Panel will cease to exist as soon as the report is submitted to the Secretary-General. There is, however, a possibility that the Chairman of the Panel will be required to be present to introduce the report to the Security Council, although this has not yet been established.

B. Information on the activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo/the Great Lakes region

2. In a letter dated 3 November 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/684), the Secretary-General informed the Council of his decision to appoint Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, as his Special Envoy for eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a letter dated 5 November 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General, the members of the Security Council took note of the decision of the Secretary-General (S/2008/685). Subsequently, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General/Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Political Affairs, decided to change the title to the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region. The remit of the Special Envoy should reach beyond the Democratic Republic of the Congo and embrace the regional dimensions of the crisis. It should also deal with the linkages between the activities of rebel movements of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the global security in the Great Lakes region. There was also a need to draw a clear distinction between functions of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for MONUC, whose mandate is focused more on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is more operational.

3. In its resolution 1843 (2008) of 20 November 2008, the Security Council welcomed the appointment of former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.

4. Since his appointment, the Special Envoy has been deeply engaged in consultations with the parties concerned. The requirements of his office, prior to

issuance of the first performance report for the biennium 2008-2009, are still being defined and are under discussion.

5. Currently, the Special Envoy, whose appointment is on a when-actually-employed basis, has yet to be remunerated for his activities, and operational requirements to date are being funded from extrabudgetary resources. Once the requirements have been defined, related funding will be sought under established procedures in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 62/239 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2008-2009. These requirements will be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009.

Annex IV

Information on adjustments in the level of appropriations

A. Recosting methodology

1. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 58/270, the General Assembly requested the Board of Auditors, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to examine the recosting methodology and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. Accordingly, the Board of Auditors conducted a review of recosting in 2004 and reported in the context of its report on the financial reports and audited financial statements for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/59/5 (Vol. I), chap. II.C). Recosting is the revision process whereby adjustments in the level of appropriations are made as a result of variations in operational rates of exchange, actual inflation experience, average level changes and vacancy rates previously assumed.

2. The programme budget is recosted four times in the biennial cycle, as follows:

(a) First, the proposed programme budget is presented at the same price levels and rates of exchange as the current programme budget. The rates of exchange used for the future years are those approved for the second year of the current biennium. Inflation provisions are compounded for the future years;

(b) Secondly, the resource requirements in the proposed programme budget are updated before an initial appropriation is approved;

(c) The third stage of the recosting process is reflected in the revised estimates included in the first performance report of the programme budget, which is submitted by the Secretary-General at the end of the first year of the biennium in connection with the revised appropriation;

(d) The fourth step is included in the second performance report, submitted at the end of the second year of the biennium, in connection with approval of the final appropriation.

B. Rates of exchange

3. With regard to currency fluctuations, the United Nations operational rates of exchange are established by the United Nations Treasury on a monthly basis. Projections for annual or biennial periods are based on either the average rate or the spot rate, whichever allows lower estimates for each duty station, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 5 of its seventh report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/51/7/Add.6). The average rate is the average of the monthly actual rates, with the latest available rate applied for the remaining months of the year, while the spot is the rate of the latest available month. Both rates are computed on a per-duty-station basis.

4. In the proposed programme budget, the rates are based on the approved rates for second year of the current biennium in the context of the first performance report of the current biennium. In the initial appropriations, either the average or spot rate for each duty station (whichever allows lower estimates) is used for both years of the biennium. In the first performance report, the actual averages are used

in the first year of the biennium while the average or spot rate that yields the lowest estimates is used in the second year. In the final appropriation, the realized rate is used with the latest available applied to the remaining months.

C. Inflation

5. For non-posts items, adjustments are generally based on the latest information available on consumer price indices derived from *The Economist*. When the inflation rate on specific object of expenditure such as utilities cannot be obtained from *The Economist*, information posted on the websites of local bureaux of statistics are used. For certain objects of expenditure (such as honorariums and representation allowance), no inflationary provision is made.

6. In the case of the staff costs, for the Professional category and above, post adjustment multipliers are provided by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), while for the General Service and related categories, adjustments reflect cost-of-living adjustments based on prevailing market conditions. Salary surveys are generally conducted for each duty station every four or five years, or as the situation warrants. Adjustments for posts result from differences in actual post adjustment indices for staff in the Professional category and above and actual cost-of-living adjustments of salary scales for staff in the General Service and related categories, compared with the assumptions made previously.

D. Other standards

7. Adjustments to other standard costs take into account actual payroll experience related to salaries and common staff costs. Revisions to standard salary costs are based on the actual averages experienced, by category and level, at each duty station. Common staff costs are budgeted as a percentage of net salaries for each duty station. Expenditures under common staff costs relate to allowances and benefits, appointments, transfers and separation of staff. Recommendations of ICSC with regard to the mobility and hardship scheme, separation payments, hazard pay and the education grant are generally absorbed within these overall adjustments, consistent with established practice in this regard.

E. Vacancy rates

8. Vacancy rates are periodically proposed by the Secretary-General for the approval of the General Assembly. Major considerations in determining vacancy rates are the category type (Professional or General Service) and post status (continuing or new).

9. Accordingly, the first performance report identifies the adjustments in the level of appropriations as a result of variations in costing parameters such as rate of exchange, post adjustment multipliers, cost-of-living adjustments, consumer price index (CPI), average levels, common staff costs and vacancy rates. The adjustments are calculated through four layers of recostings in order to calculate the net effect of each parameter:

(a) Both posts and non-posts are first recosted for currency and inflation. The multipliers and General Service salary increases, reflecting revised currency and inflation assumptions, are applied. Inflation rate for non-posts objects are applied at the local currency level;

(b) Second, the payroll data is updated. Projections are based on the same rates of exchange and inflation applied at the first layer. Posts are then recosted for changes in salary levels;

(c) Third, the common staff costs rate is updated and posts are recosted for the impact of new rate;

(d) Finally, the vacancy rate is updated and posts are recosted for the new vacancy rate.

10. Through these layers of recostings, the impact of each parameter is analysed at the object of expenditure level across all duty stations. The approved rates in the first performance report are carried into the revised appropriation at the end of the budget's first year.

11. The impact on the budget arising from the application of the most recent exchange rates (December rates) of various currencies to the United States dollar, especially the Swiss franc, is also analysed.

12. As mentioned above, in line with the recosting methodology, revision to the rate of exchange would require re-projecting the post adjustment multipliers in order to reflect the corresponding rates of exchange. This would require ICSC to re-project the post adjustment multipliers. On the basis of past experience, the process for formulating the revised multipliers could take an average of approximately two weeks for ICSC to provide the revised rates.

13. Furthermore, as the recosting is formulated through multiple layers, changes in the rates at the first layer would require recosting at each subsequent layer. Therefore, if the exchange rates were to be revised, the overall process of recosting would have to be reformulated. This would require an additional two weeks, provided ICSC conforms to the two-week time frame referred to above.

14. On the basis of the foregoing, it would not be possible to execute a full recost at the present stage and therefore, it would not be possible to provide the precise resource requirements with the application of the most up-to-date rates (December rates).

15. Only on the basis of an indicative technical application of the December rate, estimates would amount to a net decrease of $26.3 million, of which $20.6 million would relate to the Swiss franc. The estimate is based on a manual calculation at the overall level on the impact of the most recent exchange rate (December rate). It must be stressed that this does not reflect the layers of actual recosting described above, nor does it reflect an analysis of what impact would be realized from the other parameters of recosting, namely post adjustment multipliers, as this is not reflective of the established recosting methodology.

United Nations A/63/621

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 89

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

General and complete disarmament

Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/10) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39 on an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The statement is submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. Operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the draft resolution provide, inter alia, for the establishment of and assistance to an open-ended working group which has the task of facilitating further consideration of the implementation of the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (see A/63/334) on a step-by-step basis among all States Members of the United Nations, in an open and transparent manner.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the draft resolution are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the statement. The Committee notes that the Office for Disarmament Affairs would provide the necessary substantive services to the open-ended group, which would hold three sessions in 2009 in New York and four sessions in 2010-2011 at venues to be determined at the organizational session to be held before 27 February 2009. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 6 of his statement that, should the venues of the four sessions in 2010-2011 be other than

08-65882 (E) 181208

New York, this would constitute an exception to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, by which the general principle is reaffirmed that, in drawing up the schedule of conferences and meetings, United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective headquarters. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, after consultations, it was understood that there was an informal agreement to hold the 2010-2011 substantive sessions in New York.

4. In paragraph 8 of the statement, the Secretary-General outlines the modifications required in respect of the narrative of section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The relevant outputs pertaining to the third to sixth sessions of the open-ended working group would be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (para. 9).

5. Paragraphs 10 to 13 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The total additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work during the biennium 2008-2009 amount to $1,225,000, including $1,181,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $44,000 for related common support services requirements under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of the total requirements by budget section and sessions of the open-ended working group, as follows:

(United States dollars)

Budget section	*Organizational session*	*First session*	*Second session*	*Total*
Section 2: General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management				
1. Meetings service	23 700	121 100	121 100	265 900
2. Documentation	19 000	513 000	383 100	915 100
Subtotal	**42 700**	**634 100**	**504 200**	**1 181 000**
Section 28D: Office of Central Support Services				
Technical and other support services	4 000	20 000	20 000	44 000
Total	**46 700**	**654 100**	**524 200**	**1 225 000**

6. The Secretary-General indicates that while every effort will be made to accommodate the requirements for conference-servicing and support services related to the biennium 2008-2009 from within the existing capacity under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, the extent of that accommodation can be determined only in the light of a consolidated statement on the contingency fund reflecting the demand for additional services stemming from all statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates for the biennium 2008-2009.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39, additional requirements of up to $1,225,000 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 as follows: section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($1,181,000), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($44,000). Any additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

United Nations A/63/622

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 117
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report, in advance form, of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/63/600). In the course of its deliberations, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee points out that, for several bienniums, the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget outline have been submitted by the Secretary-General and considered by the General Assembly at the very end of off-budget years. The Committee notes, in that connection, that the Secretary-General issued his instructions for the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 in early October 2008, setting 14 November 2008 as the deadline for budget submissions by departments and offices. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that, in order for the budget outline to be a practical tool in the budget preparation process, it should be submitted by the Secretary-General sufficiently early during off-budget years so that the Secretary-General can base instructions for the preparation of proposed programme budgets on budget outline parameters as approved by the Assembly.**

3. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, in establishing a preliminary estimate for the biennium 2010-2011, the approved level of appropriations and related commitments, namely, $4,207.6 million, had been taken as the starting point (see A/63/600, para. 2). On that basis, the Secretary-General had proposed a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2010-2011, expressed in initial 2008-2009 prices, amounting to $4,617.9 million (see para. 2, table). As indicated in paragraph 20 of the report, the preliminary estimate, excluding requirements for special political missions, represented an increase of $20.1 million, or 0.5 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations and

08-65894 (E) 181208

related provisions for the biennium 2008-2009. The preliminary estimate, including required provisions for special political missions, would represent an increase of $410.3 million, or 9.8 per cent, compared with existing provisions for the biennium 2008-2009. The Advisory Committee points out that, consistent with past practice, the level proposed for the contingency fund is not included in the figure of $4,617.9 million.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that an additional amount of $44.3 million is included in the budget outline for the full biennial provision in the biennium 2010-2011 for posts that are partially funded in the current biennium (see A/63/600, paras. 3 and 4). On the other hand, one-time costs of $31.4 million pertaining to the biennium 2008-2009 are not included in the budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011 (see A/63/600, para. 5).

5. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimated amount of $825.7 million for special political missions during the biennium 2010-2011 is included in the budget outline at the level that is equivalent to the revised provision proposed for the biennium 2008-2009. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, although the current composition of special political missions would change somewhat in 2010-2011, it was not anticipated that the overall level would trend downward (see A/63/600, para. 15).

6. The Secretary-General indicated in his report that special political missions clearly exhibited characteristics that set them apart from other activities of the Organization financed from the regular budget (see A/63/600, para. 16). He proposed, therefore, that the General Assembly might wish to consider whether special political missions were amenable to treatment under the current regular budget procedures for estimating requirements in the budget outline and subsequent programme budgets. The Advisory Committee draws attention, in that connection, to its comments and observations on special political missions contained in its related report (see A/63/593, paras. 12-14). **In view of the magnitude of the provision for special political missions and the variability in requirements for such missions, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General, in presenting his overall estimates for the proposed budget outline, continue to present the estimates for special political missions in such a way as to readily identify those resources attributable to special political missions. This would enable the General Assembly to better assess the impact of the estimates for special political missions on the proposed budget outline. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General use the same approach for the presentation of special political missions in the proposed programme budget.**

7. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report, the outline requirements would be subject to recosting, prior to their approval by the General Assembly (see A/63/600, para. 18). The Advisory Committee was informed that the overall level of estimated requirements for 2010-2011 would also be affected by decisions on the first performance report, revised estimates and programme budget implications that are being considered by the Assembly.

8. The Secretary-General indicated that there were several initiatives of which the General Assembly was currently seized or of which reports were expected to be submitted by the Secretary-General (see A/63/600, para. 22). According to the Secretary-General, those items, when considered and if adopted, would have a significant bearing on the level of the proposed programme budget for the biennium

2010-2011. The proposed programme budget outline should have presented the fullest possible picture of the Organization's estimates of resources for the biennium 2010-2011. The Advisory Committee notes that the budget outline under consideration falls short of such requirements. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that if the budget outline were to include the estimates of all items currently before the General Assembly and foreseeable items in reports yet to be issued, the budget outline would be likely to increase to a preliminary estimate of $5,187.1 million (see annex below). The Committee points out that some of the requirements are not included in the updated preliminary estimates (see annex below).

9. The size of the contingency fund is discussed in paragraph 21 of the report. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal of the Secretary-General that the level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2010-2011 remain at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources.**

10. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take into account the updated information contained in the annex to the present report when it considers the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011.**

Annex

Programme budget outline for 2010-2011

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*	
As initially estimated in A/63/600		
Appropriations for 2008-2009	4 207 541.7	
Plus: Full provision for new posts approved in 2008-2009	44 335.4	
Less: One-time costs in 2008-2009	(31 410.9)	
Plus: Provision for new or expanded activities/events foreseen and/or mandated in 2008-2009	7 200.0	
Subtotal	**4 227 666.2**	
Additional provision required for special political missions at the current programme level	390 200.0	
Preliminary estimate for the biennium 2008-2009		**4 617 866.2**
First performance report (A/63/573)		
Additional appropriation		
(a) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	1 359.2	
(b) Decisions of policymaking organs	—	
(c) Exchange rates	63 015.0	
(d) Inflation assumptions	103 819.2	
(e) Other standards	12 600.2	
(f) Miscellaneous income	(1 359.2)	
First performance report		**179 434.4**
List of potential add-ons to the programme budget for 2008-2009		
Construction in Baghdad (commitment authority for 2009 in the amount of $5 million)	—	—
Preliminary estimate of construction requirements in 2010-2011	**98 600.0**	
Total construction, Baghdad		**98 600.0**
Information and communications technology		
Enterprise resource planning system	6 427.1	
Advisory Committee	*(838.3)*	
Delayed impact 2010-2011	6 187.1	
	11 775.9	11 775.9
Customer relationship management		1 510.9
Enterprise content management		4 203.6
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011		(5 714.5)
Total, enterprise resource planning/customer relationship management/ enterprise content management		**11 775.9**

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*	
Revised estimates: disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations (A/62/477) (Valencia and Long Island City)	50 359.9	
Advisory Committee	*(45 329.5)*	
Delayed impact 2010-2011	1 188.6	
Total, disaster recovery and business continuity		**6 219.0**
Strategy and governance (realignment of resources between sections with net zero effect)		—
Strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/521 and Corr.1)	22 206.4	
Advisory Committee, including reduction owing to the delayed consideration of the report by the General Assembly	*(13 422.0)*	
Delayed impact 2010-2011	7 575.4	
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(1 501.3)	
Total, Department of Political Affairs		**14 858.5**
Improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities and the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/708)	25 571.0	
Advisory Committee	*(9 327.7)*	
Delayed impact 2010-2011	28 200.6	
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(1 280.0)	
Total, development pillar		**43 163.9**
Accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework (A/62/701 and Corr.1 and Add.1)	3 008.6	
Advisory Committee	*(3 008.6)*	
Total, accountability		—
Costs associated with capital master plan	38 191.2	
Amounts proposed to be funded from the surplus account of the general fund (suspension of the application of credits under regulation 3.2 (d), 5.3 and 5.4 of the Financial Regulations and Rules)	(38 191.2)	
Required in 2010-2011 (report not yet considered by Advisory Committee)	99 807.2	
Total, costs associated with capital master plan		**99 807.2**
Detailed proposals for streamlining United Nations contractual arrangements and harmonizing conditions of service (A/63/298)	4 718.3	
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(4 718.3)	
Requirements in 2010-2011	60 800.0	
Total, harmonization of conditions of service		**60 800.0**
Revised estimates, administration of justice	1 729.1	
Advisory Committee	*(135.0)*	
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(1 594.1)	

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*	
Total, administration of justice		—
Revised estimates, Rule of Law Unit (A/63/154 and resolution 62/70)	1 049.6	
Advisory Committee	*(1 049.6)*	
Total, Rule of Law Unit		—
Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms (A/C.5/63/10)	1 225.0	
Advisory Committee[b]		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(1 225.0)	—
PBI: Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/C.3/63/L.70 and A/C.5/63/17)	570.4	
Advisory Committee[b]		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(570.4)	—
PBI: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1 and A/C.5/63/14)	379.9	
Advisory Committee[b]		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(379.9)	—
PBI: Rights of the child (A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1, A/C.5/63/16)	2 194.3	
Advisory Committee[b]		
Delayed impact 2010-2011		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(46.1)	
Total, Rights of the Child		**2 148.2**
Revised estimates: Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1 and A/C.5/63/13)	513.1	
Advisory Committee[b]		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(513.1)	
Total, Committee on the Rights of the Child		—
Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council following its continuing review of its subsidiary machinery and its related PBI — a consolidated statement	1 841.5	
Advisory Committee[b]		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(477.6)	
Total, consolidated statement		**1 363.9**

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011[a]	*Thousands of United States dollars*	
Revised estimates resulting from the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto		
Advisory Committee[b]	1 012.4	
Delayed impact 2010-2011		
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(1 012.4)	
Total, persons with disabilities		—
Security management		
Revised estimates: comprehensive report on strengthened unified security management system progress report	47 528.8	
Requirements as per Inter-agency Security Management Network report and Brahimi report, CEB/2008/HLCM/31, amounting to $29,678.8 million at full incumbency. The regular budget share represents 23.79 per cent of the total requirements for 2009 (or $18.5228 million at adjusted incumbency)		
Advisory Committee[b]	4 406.6	
One-time cost in 2008-2009 not required in 2010-2011	(18 391.7)	
Requirements in 2010-2011		**33 543.7**
Special political missions		
Reduction in provision for 2009 as per Advisory Committee recommendations		(39 505.4)
List of potential add-ons to the programme budget for 2010-2011		
Deliberations ongoing in Fifth Committee/not yet concluded by ACABQ or yet to be submitted		
After-service health insurance[b]		
Strengthened and unified security management (no report, only best estimate)	50 000.0	
Strategic heritage plan in Geneva	1 000.0	51 000.0
Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 related to business continuity management (A/63/359 and Corr.1); requirements for 2010-2011	6 000.0	6 000.0
Total outline estimate taking into consideration possible add-ons		**5 187 075.5**
Contingency fund at 0.75 per cent		38 903.1

Abbreviation: PBI: programme budget implication.

[a] Formulated on information available or anticipated as at 16 December 2008.

[b] To be determined.

United Nations A/63/623

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 60 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Rights of the Child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/16) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1 on the rights of the child.

2. In the context of the Secretary-General's programme budget proposal for the biennium 2008-2009, the Advisory Committee noted that the proposed resources at the time reflected the provision for 2008 only and that, should an extension of the mandate of the Office of the Special Representative be proposed, the Secretary-General would prepare a statement of programme budget implications for submission to the General Assembly (see A/62/7, chap. II, sect. A, para. I.14).

3. The statement of the Secretary-General indicates that additional resources in the amount of $2,194,300 gross ($1,965,500 net) would be required in connection with the extension of the mandate of the Office of the Special Representative for 2009. The provision reflects the continuation of the current complement of eight staff, as well as a request for two new Professional posts, at the P-4 and P-3 levels, and non-post resources of $576,000, including travel costs.

4. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the addition of a new Programme Officer at the P-4 level would allow the team as a whole to take on more activities, including substantive activities with rights of the child partners. The new Programme Officer at the P-3 level would be responsible mostly for research, drafting and liaison activities. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the envisaged functions could be handled by two Programme Officers at the P-3 level.

08-66037 (E) 181208

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1, requirements of up to $2,194,300 gross ($1,965,500 net) relating to the terms of operative paragraphs 61 and 81 (b) of the draft resolution would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination. The extent to which the additional requirements would need additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009 is to be determined in the context of the consolidated statement of all statements of the programme budget implications and revised estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the General Assembly together with the proposals on utilization of the contingency fund for these additional requirements.**

United Nations A/63/624

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 64 (b)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/13) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1 on the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

2. The Committee notes that the requests contained in the draft resolution would give rise to additional requirements for additional pre-sessional working group meetings and sessional meetings, interpretation services and documentation. Additional requirements would also arise for additional conference servicing, for general temporary assistance of two staff at the P-3 level and for one General Service level assistant for a total of 18 months each to clear a backlog of more than 80 reports. The Advisory Committee trusts that the requested resources will be utilized in an efficient and effective manner to ensure that the backlog is cleared without delay.

3. As indicated in the statement, these requests would entail additional requirements in the amount of $725,200 for 2009, of which an amount of $212,100 would be met through absorption under various sections. At the present time, therefore, the Secretary-General is seeking additional resources in the amount of $513,100 under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Further requirements in the amount of $3,612,800 for 2010 would be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

08-66043 (E) 181208

4. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1, there would be a need for an additional appropriation in the amount of $513,100 for the biennium 2008-2009 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The extent to which an additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009 would be required would be determined in the context of the consolidated statement of all statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates for the biennium 2008-2009 to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the main part of its sixty-third session, together with proposals on the utilization of the contingency fund for those additional requirements. The requirements in the amount of $3,612,800 for 2010 would be addressed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

5. **The Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the proposed modifications to the outputs to be incorporated into the programme of work under subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs, of section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

United Nations A/63/625

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 118 and 48

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/63/L.57

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/19) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/63/L.57. As indicated in the statement, the General Assembly, under the terms of paragraph 2 of its draft resolution A/63/L.57, would endorse the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, which, in paragraph 79, calls for holding a conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. The conference will be organized by the President of the General Assembly and the modalities will be defined by March 2009 at the latest.

2. The Committee further notes, as indicated in the statement, that there are insufficient details at this time regarding the modalities of the conference to determine the full range of related programme budget implications. No additional conference services would be required, on the understanding that the conference would be part of the regular work programme of the General Assembly, utilizing meeting and documentation resources that have already been planned and budgeted. However, any additional conference-servicing requirements for related parallel meetings, round tables, panels and civil society hearings and/or dialogues would have to be reviewed and evaluated and their financial implications determined at the

08-66049 (E) 181208

time the modalities were made clear, after close consultations with Member States regarding relevant organizational arrangements.

3. **Bearing in mind what is stated in the statement of the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/63/L.57, additional resource requirements may be required. However, given the absence of sufficient details at this stage regarding the modalities of the conference, it is difficult to determine the full extent of the programme budget implications. A detailed statement would therefore be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly during its current session as soon as specific information on the format and modalities of the conference becomes available.**